

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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R 311010Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2589

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0415

E.O. 11652; GDS

TAGS: ABLD, MZ

SUBJECT: OFFER OF A BEQUEST OF PROPERTY TO U.S. GOVERNMENT

1. MR. ROBERT GERMAN, FORMER AUSTRALIAN TRADE REPRESENTATIVE AND ONE OF THE DIRECTORS OF RENNIE'S CONSOLIDATED, LDA., WHO OWNS THE HOUSE NEXT TO THAT OF THE AMERICAN CONSUL GENERAL ON AVENIDA DOS DUQUES DE CONNAUGHT IN LOURENCO MARQUES, INFORMED ME TODAY THAT IN VIEW OF HIS LONG, FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH VARIOUS AMERICAN CONSULS GENERAL IN LOURENCO MARQUES, HE INTENDS TO LEAVE HIS PROPERTY TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IF MOZAMBIQUE "BECOMES A COMMUNIST COUNTRY". HE AND HIS WIFE HAVE NO CHILDREN. HE HAD ONCE INTENDED TO LEAVE THE PROPERTY TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, BUT AFTER BEING DROPPED AS TRADE REPRESENTATIVE ABOUT A YEAR AGO, HE FEELS NO SPECIAL LOYALTY IN THAT DIRECTION. HE SAID HE WOULD GIVE ME A PAPER STATING HIS INTENT, AND IF "THE COMMUNISTS" TAKE OVER, HE WILL MAKE A FORMAL WILL TO THE ABOVE EFFECT. IN THE MEANTIME HE REQUESTED THAT I KEEP HIS OFFER SECRET.

2. IF MOZAMBIQUE DOES NOT GO COMMUNIST, MR. GERMAN WOULD EXPECT TO RETAIN TITLE TO AND LIVE IN HIS HOUSE AS LONG AS HE AND HIS WIFE ARE ALIVE. THE HOUSE WOULD PASS TO HIS WIFE IF HE SHOULD PRE-DECEASE HER, BUT HE WOULD ARRANGE FOR USG TO BECOME RESIDUAL BENEFICIARY.

3. I THANKED MR. GERMAN FOR HIS GENEROUS OFFER, TOLD HIM I DID NOT CONSIDER THIS CONVERSATION IN ANY WAY A COMMITMENT, AND SUGGESTED HE COMMIT HIS INTENTIONS TO PAPER SO WE WOULD KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HE HAS IN MIND AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT
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4. COMMENT: THE GERMAN HOUSE, JOINED WITH THE AMERICAN
CONSUL GENERAL'S RESIDENCE, BOTH OF WHICH ARE SUPERBLY
LOCATED ON BLUFF OVERLOOKING BAY OF LOURENCO MARQUES, WOULD
MAKE EXCELLENT SITE FOR FUTURE EMBASSY RESIDENCE. THE PRO-
PERTIES ARE BOUND TO INCREASE IN VALUE IF THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT SHOULD DECIDE TO SELL. WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING
IF THERE ARE ANY OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED GIFT; IF NOT,
WHAT PROCEDURES SHOULD BE FOLLOWED IN ACCEPTING THE OFFER.
VAN OSS

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